THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The information has been posted by the Supreme Court and some of the High Courts on their website.

(b) and (c) The Government is considering to bring in a comprehensive legislation on the issue of accountability of Judges wherein it is also proposed to deal with the subject of declaration of assets by Judges without encroaching upon the independence of the judiciary.

Restatement of laws

1926. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in a note exchanged at a meeting of Chief Justices of High Courts held at the Supreme Court, Judges have complained that Centre must deliver on its promise to set up more courts as burden of cases is increasing day-by-day;

(b) whether the Chief Justice of India has constituted a committee of Judges to bring out an authoritative series of 'Restatement of Laws' on about 100 topics to remove ambiguities surrounding legal principles and their applicability for their better adaptation to social needs; and

(c) if so, to what extent it has identified subjects for preparation of restatement of laws?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Government has not received any such information.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India who is an Ex-Officio President of the Indian Law Institute has constituted a Restatement of Law Project Committee consisting of Judges, senior advocates and academicians to undertake a research project on Restatement of Law on various topics.

(c) The Restatement of Law Project Committee has initially selected following three subjects as a pilot project in order to create models for future use:

(i) The Legislation Privileges

(ii) Contempt of Court

(iii) Public Interest Litigation

Electronic storage of records

1927. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether abnormal increase in bulk paperwork relating to pending cases in High Courts requires additional accommodation, especially in Punjab and Haryana High Court;

(b) if so, whether electronic storage would be resorted to, and extensive efforts made to weed out records which are not vital for final disposal of such cases; and

(c) whether such a standardized process has been evolved at Government level?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) This issue has not been brought to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c) Government is implementing a scheme for Computerization of District and Subordinate Courts in all States of the country and for upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of the Supreme Court and High Courts. This Scheme is being implemented as a Mission Mode Project named E-Courts Project. The first phase of the three phases of the scheme is currently under implementation. Digitization of court records is proposed to be taken up in the subsequent phases of the E-Courts Projects.

Uniform Civil Code

†1928. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) Government's approach towards principal of Uniform Civil Code in the country;

(b) whether separate civil codes are hindrance in social harmony and national integration; and

(c) whether Government would take any steps to do away with the customs and conventions countering the constitutional principles like equal right to women?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Bringing in a Uniform Civil Code involves changes in the Personal Laws including those of the minority communities. It has been the consistent policy of the Central Government not to interfere in the Personal Laws of the minority communities unless the necessary initiatives for such changes come from a sizeable cross-section of such communities themselves.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government is committed to bring gender equality for women in all spheres of life.

CBI probe on illegal mining in Orissa

†1929. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the fact that a strong demand is being made for CBI probe into illegal mining, pilferage of mineral wealth and irregularities in the transportation of minerals in Orissa;

(b) whether it is a fact that a demand is also being raised for getting the matter investigated by the National Investigating Agency; and

(c) if so, the facts in this regard and the steps taken and proposed to be taken further by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Some instances of illegal mining of iron ore and manganese ore in Keonjhar district of Orissa have

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.